

show him. He was a fine tall man of about forty-five,—a fair specimen of the frank, sensible, well-spoken, well-informed Northumbrian peasantry,—of that peasantry of which a militia regiment was composed which so amazed the Londoners when it was garrisoned in the capital many years ago, by the size, the noble deportment, the soldier-like bearing, and the good conduct, of the men. I thought this a good opportunity of asking some questions,—where he was going, and how he would dispose of his large family (eleven in number). He told me they were to inhabit one of these hinds' cottages, whose narrow dimensions were less than 24 feet by 15 ; and that the eleven would have only three beds to sleep in,—that he himself, his wife, a daughter of six, and a boy of four years old, would sleep in one bed,—that a daughter of eighteen, a son of twelve, a son of ten, and a daughter of eight, would have a second bed,—and a third would receive his three sons, of the age of twenty, sixteen, and fourteen. 'Pray,' said I, 'do you not think that this is a very improper way of disposing of your family?' 'Yes, certainly,' was the answer, 'it is very improper in a *Christian* point of view ; but what can we do until they build us better houses?'

It were needless to expatiate on this picture : it is quite enough that we hold it up to the reader. There is much to militate against the character of the poor hind all over the country. His very situation is adverse, however comparatively favourable the circumstances with which it may chance to be surrounded. When aggravated by the horrors of the bothy system, deterioration is inevitable ; nor can any one honestly or rationally hold that the gross cruelty which consigns him to situations such as the one described,—situations wholly subversive of that nice delicacy of feeling which is at once the safeguard and ornament of virtue,—does not furnish a necessary item in his degradation. Mark the effects. In an interesting report, on farm-servants, of the very reverend the Synod of Perth and Stirling, published in October last, we find the following astounding passage. It embodies a piece of moral statistics in connection with this hapless class, as furnished by the returns of thirty-nine parishes :—

“Of the public scandals chargeable on farm-servants, the proportion varies considerably in different parishes ; but in all of them, with three exceptions, the number chargeable on that class of the parishioners is